

Appln. No. 10/619,024
Amendment dated March 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed January 5, 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 17 remain in this application. No claims have been cancelled or withdrawn. No claims have been added.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claims 1 through 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Santelli et al. in view of Hirzel.

Claim 17 requires "wherein each said member of said pair of forms includes an outer perimeter edge and an inner perimeter edge defining a cut-out area" and "wherein a shape of the outer perimeter edge of each said member substantially corresponds to a shape of the inner perimeter edge of each said member". Claim 14 includes similar requirements. This feature of the invention, as shown in the drawings, is submitted to make the members more easily flexible to follow the contours of the face of the user, compared to, for example, devices that have varying widths between inner and outer edges so that some portions of the devices are more difficult to bend than other portions.

It is alleged in the Office Action that the Hirzel patent teaches that "it is known in the art to have the shape of the outer perimeter edge (11, 12) substantially correspond to a shape of inner perimeter edge". However, it is submitted that the Hirzel patent is more likely to lead one of ordinary skill in the art *away from* the requirement of claims 14 and 17, rather to these requirements. The outer edges of the stencils shown in Figures 1 and 2 do not follow the edges of the cut-outs, but generally extend about the outer bounds of the combination of the pair of the cut-outs, so that, for example,

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the outer edge of the right side of the right side stencil is wide and comes to a blunt termination, while either of the cut-outs of the stencil terminate in a relatively sharp point. So, where the inner edge defining the cut out is narrow and pointed, the outer edge is wide and blunt. The left side of the right side stencil includes a similar contrast, in that the left end of the inner edge is curved and the outer edge comprises three straight edge portions that are not curved in any way.

Furthermore, the Santelli patent shows a pair of templates that are clearly rectangular in order to permit the template sections to be formed together and then separated before use by tearing perforations. It is submitted that this function of the Santelli system would be lost by any attempt to modify Santelli to conform to the claim requirements set forth above.

It is therefore submitted that the Santelli and Hirzel patents would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the applicant's claimed invention as defined in claims 14 and 17 and therefore it is submitted that claims 14 and 17 are allowable over the prior art.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 14 and 17 is therefore respectfully requested.

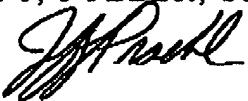
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

WOODS, FULLER, SHULTZ & SMITH P.C.



Date:



Jeffrey A. Proehl (Reg. No. 35,987)
Customer No. 40,158
P.O. Box 5027
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5027
(605)336-3890 FAX (605)339-3357